

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0089**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # M-003 - Underground Magazine  
{Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1945  
Address(s): ..... Reeder Road {Current}  
County/Independent City: Accomack  
Vicinity of: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... CHINCOTEAGUE WEST  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**  
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	other	Concrete	other
Structural System	other	Steel	

Site Description: ..... The structure is located in a fenced area on the northwest corner of the base and the site drops off to the west and north.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Magazine	Historic

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Magazine

<u>Est. Date of Construction:</u> ....	1945 {Owner/written data}	<u>Accessed?</u> .....	No	Not accessible
<u>Primary Resource?</u> .....	Yes	<u>Number of Stories:</u> .....	1.0	
<u>Architectural Style:</u> .....	Octagon Mode	<u>Condition:</u> .....	Deteriorated	
<u>Interior Plan Type:</u> .....	Undivided Space (non-domestic)	<u>Threats to Resource:</u> .....	Demolition	
			Deterioration	
			Neglect	

**Description:** This semi-cylindrical steel building is set on a concrete slab foundation and buried under mounded earth with the east elevation left exposed. The east elevation is trapezoidal in shape and consists of a series of metal panels bolted together. The center of the east elevation contains a set of double doors with two metal vents located directly above. The far south end of the elevation consists of a short, triangular section of concrete block wall, topped with cement. Vegetation has grown around and on top of the piled earth. The exposed painted steel of the east elevation is flaking and rusted.

**Cemetery Information**

**Bridge Information**

**National Register Eligibility Information**

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*Historic Context(s):* ..... Military/Defense

*Historic Time Period(s):*..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

*Significance Statement:* This building was built in 1945 as a magazine, a function that has continued into the present. The building is identified as "M-3" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. It was called the "Magazine" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by the U.S. Navy. The building is located on the north side of the Wallops Flight Facility main base, in a fenced area, off a circular loop road that provides access to the other underground magazines built in the surrounding area.

This building is an example of a secondary building associated with a Military/Defense facility that gained importance in the New Dominion (1945 – present) period and was one of several buildings and structures built on CNAAS following the end of World War II. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. The building has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Underground Magazine has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. It is not associated with any event or individual significant at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource retains its integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. The overall deterioration of the building, and the vegetative growth above and around the building, have adversely affected its overall feeling. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004 the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

***Bibliographic Documentation***

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*Reference #: 1*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... Giffels and Valet

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

*Reference #: 2*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

*Reference #: 3*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

**Ownership Information**

**Graphic Media Documentation**

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21537	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 10-12, 22

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events**

*CRM Event # 1,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

*CRM Event # 2,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814